THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS

BY-LAW NO. 3814-89

A BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS, BEING A BY-LAW TO DESIGNATE A PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF DUNDAS TO BE OF HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL VALUE OR INTEREST.

(HISTORICAL DESIGNATION - 39 ELGIN STREET)

WHEREAS this Council is empowered under Subsection 6 of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 337, as amended, to enact by-laws to designate property, including exteriors of buildings, as described in Schedule "A" attached hereto to be of historic or architectural value or interest;

AND WHEREAS this Council has caused to be served upon the owners of the property known municipally as 39 Elgin Street, in the Town of Dundas and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation notice of intention to so designate the said property and has caused such notice of intention to be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in this Municipality, once for each of three consecutive weeks;

AND WHEREAS no notice of objection to the proposed designation of the said property has been served on the Clerk of this municipality within the time prescribed by the said statute;

AND WHEREAS this Council's reasons for the proposed designation are as set forth in Schedule "B" attached hereto;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. *There is hereby designated as being of historic and architectural value or interest, the exterior of the property known municipally as 39 Elgin Street, in the Town of Dundas, more particularly described in Schedule "A" attached hereto.*

2. *The Town Solicitor is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this By-law to be registered against the property described in Schedule "A" attached hereto in the Land Registry Office for the Registry Division of Wentworth.*

3. *The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a copy of this By-law to be served upon the owners of the property and upon the Ontario Heritage Foundation and to cause a notice of this By-law to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Dundas.*

READ a First, Second and Third time and finally PASSED this Twenty-first day of August, A.D. 1989.

MAYOR

CLERK

SCHEDULE "A"

39 Elgin Street

ALL AND SINGULAR that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Dundas, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, being composed of Lots Numbers 32 and 33 on the east side of Elgin Street in the survey of that part of the Town of Dundas made by J. Mackintosh, D.P.L.S. for Messrs. Allan and Mathieson known as Registered Plan No. 4, now known as Plan Number 1446.

SCHEDULE "B"

Historical Significance

This picturesque house at the corner of Elgin and Victoria was built circa 1859 for Thomas Wilson and remained in the Wilson family until 1917. The Wilson family immigrated from Scotland in 1843 and settled in Dundas one year later.

Wilson was employed at the Gartshore Foundry for 25 years, 16 of these as manager of the machinery department.

In 1866 the Gartshore Foundry went into receivership and a group of investors led by Wilson leased it under the name Thos Wilson and Co. Wilson's foundry employed 75 skilled mechanics and reached a peak of prosperity in its first five years, during which Canada entered a period of industrial advancement. The foundry produced steam engines, boilers and mill machinery and specialized in refitting the larger lake steamers that came up the Canal. It also supplied machinery to the pioneering saw and grist mills in Ontario. By 1889, the boom had faded, Wilson's partners had moved on and he was forced to close the foundry. The Valley City Manufacturing Co now occupies the site of Gartshore's and Wilson's old foundries.

Thomas Wilson was not only a skilled engineer and a successful businessman, he also played an important role in the Dundas political arena. He served as town councillor for many years and held the office of Mayor twice, initially from 1876 to 1878 and then again in 1885. He was actively involved in the controversial Water Works Committee which lobbied 20 years for an adequate fire-fighting system. Despite the feasibility of several plans put forward by the committee, it was not until the disasterous fire of 1881 that the towns people consented to this use of tax dollars. The system was finally completed during Wilson's final term as Mayor. Wilson also served the town as town clerk (1883), treasurer (1888-90), a member of the school board, and as Justice of the Peace. He died in 1891.

In 1868 Thomas Wilson sold 39 Elgin to his son Richard Todd Wilson who became an equally important man in Dundas business and political communities.

R.T. Wilson was a true entrepreneur with an interest in nearly every business that prospered in Dundas during his lifetime. Around the age of twenty, Wilson opened a store in the block opposite Foundry Street where he sold groceries, wine, liquors, flour, feed and provisions. In 1863 he added Wilson and Company's coal oil works to his building on King Street. He started Dundas Axe Works, built a new factory and a skating rink on Hatt Street and the Bank of Commerce building. Wilson was quite prosperous by 1875 when he purchased a

large storehouse at the canal basin and outfitted it as a malt house - one of the largest in the Dominion. In 1876 he bought the Elgin House Hotel which ceased operations as a hotel in 1885 and has been used since as a post office, public library, telephone office and bank.

In addition to his many business ventures, R.T. Wilson served as town councillor, Chairman of the Street Committee and the Confederation Committee, was a member of the Board of Education and of the Knox Church Board of Managers. He also served as Mayor in 1891, 1892 and again in 1911.

In 1917 R.T. Wilson retired to Toronto where he died ten years later.

Architectural Significance

39 Elgin Street is a particularly fine example of Gothic Revival architecture which was popular in Ontario from the 1840's to the 1870's. The Gothic style developed in reaction to the rigid symmetry and the emphasis on order and balance that characterizes Georgian and Classical architecture. The Gothic house is romantic and fanciful,both in structure and in its decorative features. It is vertical in its emphasis, featuring sharply pitched gables decorated with curvilinear barge board. This concern for surface texture and decoration is often manifested by a stucco finish. Free of the restrictions of classical norms, this style inclines to asymmetry and variety, resulting in a picturesque look.

39 Elgin Street is a 1 1/2 storey stone built dwelling with a sharply pitched gable roof and projecting eaves. A stucco finish was added in 1869 some ten years after the house was built. The foundation is rough hewn stone, extending slightly above ground level. A concrete base course is visible along the left and right facades.

One of the most striking Gothic features of 39 Elgin Street is the decorative barge board that runs along all the gable ends and the dormer windows. The major gables on this home have the added feature of being topped by kidney shaped clay ornaments, unique to 39 Elgin. The roof is also unusual in that it is shingled with octagonal slates. Most Gothic style houses have a finial extending upwards from the central gable. 39 Elgin originally had one at the apex of each end gable, but both were later removed.

The gabled porch over the front door is a later addition, but this structure is sufficiently Gothic to maintain the purity of style which distinguishes this house. Two octagonal columns support the gable, with two pilasters (simulated columns) in the same style running along the wall behind them. The door is central: a double door, each side consisting of an upper rectangular recessed panel over a square recessed panel, separated by a wooden band, entirely set into moulded rails. The original door is now in the foyer, flanked by narrow side lights with a leaded diamond pattern placed under a transom light which repeats the pattern. An inlaid tile floor in the foyer before the door may also be original.

One charming characteristic of Gothic homes is the variety in window design, place and ornamentation. 39 Elgin provides a mode example of this emphasis on variety, with a sample of several popular Gothic window types. The first storey front facade windows are two over four paned, double hung windows with thick mullions and thinner muntins. The windows have decorative lintels - square headed, moulded wooden trim, wooden surround sills, stone lugsills, and are shuttered. The two first floor windows on the left facade and the two second storey windows on the right facade are the same.

On the second storey of the front facade are two distinctly Gothic window types. To the right is a gabled dormer window, double hung, two over four paned, long and narrow with simple moulded trim and narrow wooden lugsills. In the central gable is a four center ogee window with a ventilated wooden transom and moulded trim as in the dormer. The ogee is a type of pointed arch found on most Gothic buildings, similarly, the gabled dormer is a standard Gothic window type.

The right facade is dominated by a first floor bay window with a ventilated wooden transom. Two long, narrow, double hung windows are set into the bay which is roofed and has a wooden entablature. The rear of the house once was a porch and has a simple wood-trimmed, stained glass window set in its right side.

The left facade's second storey window is an ogee in the same style as the front gabled ogee. Above it is a tiny attic window - one pane set into simple wooden moulding. On the far left first storey is a simple double hung sash window with plain mouldings. It is placed in the middle of the closed-in porch section. At each end of this section, there is a pilaster on the same style as those at the entranceway.

The rear of 39 Elgin Street surpasses the front facade in its variety of structures, windows, and decorative elements. What once was a porch that extended the length of the rear has been converted to part of the house itself and a greenhouse added. The porch section has a flat roof and simple wooden entablature. Set into the right rear is a double hung shuttered window. Next to it is a set of three windows under a 36 light opaque window. Approximately centered in the rear is a door, above which is a transom with wooden ornamentation carved into the shape of two quatrefoil flowers. To the left of this door is a pilaster (as in the front) next to two round headed windows with lancet tracery.

The second storey of the rear has a gabled dormer at left and an ogee window at right. In the center a square tower has been built atop the porch. This unusual tower is crenelated and set into it is a distinctive stained glass window with a diamond channel pattern which was repeated in the lights around the original door.

At the front left corner is a porch enclosed with treillage. From this porch double French doors provide another entrance into the house. The doors are trimmed with square headed wooden moulding. A small one-sided gable roof extends approximately a foot above the door, supported by brackets.

In keeping with the upward movement of the house's decorative elements, the two chimneys are tall and doubled with connecting brick courses.

When 39 Elgin Street was built, a large porch with three classical columns graced the front. It had an upper balcony with a wooden quatrefoil balustrade which ran the entire length of the front facade. When this porch was removed, the central gable was extended down the right side to create the present entranceway. The inlaid tile at the top of the front steps may date from this period.

39 Elgin Street sits on a corner lot of relatively large proportions. It is fenced in front with white pickets. The house is one of Dundas' best Gothic styled structures and the variety of light, shade and detail perceived is enhanced by the well-treed and landscaped lot.

As this house is located on property which renders all four facades visible, all four exterior facades are to be designated, excluding the latter addition porch in the southeast corner.

of Ontario

Document General

Form 4 — Land Registration Reform Act, 1984

D

NUMBER 11299 CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

1989 OCT -6 A 10 19

WENTWORTH 27/07/75 (illegible)
No. 62
HAMILTON
LAND REGISTRAR

(1) Registry [X] Land Titles [ ] (2) Page 1 of 11 pages

(3) Property Identifier(s) Block Property Additional: See Schedule [ ]

(4) Nature of Document

By-law

(5) Consideration

Dollars $

(6) Description

Lots Numbers 32 and 33 on the east side of Elgin Street in the survey of that part of the Town of Dundas made by J. Mackintosh D.P.L.S. for Messrs. Allan and Mathieson known as Registered Plan No. 4, now known as Plan 1446, being in the Town of Dundas, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth

w Property Identifiers Additional: See Schedule [ ]

ecutions Additional: See Schedule [ ]

(7) This Document Contains: (a) Redescription New Easement Plan/Sketch [ ] (b) Schedule for: Description [ ] Additional Parties [ ] Other [X]

is Document provides as follows:

e original copy of By-law No. 3814-89 of The Corporation of the Town of ndas attached hereto

Continued on Schedule [ ]

d Document relates to instrument number(s)

rty(ies) (Set out Status or Interest)

me(s)	Signature(s)	Date of Signature Y	M	D
E CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DUNDAS, by its solicitor	Kenneth S. Johnson	1989	09	27

dress Service Town Hall, 60 Main Street, P.O. Box 8584, Dundas, Ontario L9H 5E7

ty(ies) (Set out Status or Interest)

me(s)	Signature(s)	Date of Signature Y	M	D

ess ervice

icipal Address of Property

lgin Street
as, Ontario
2W1

(15) Document Prepared by:

JOHNSON, RAMSBOTTOM & CASTLE
Barristers & Solicitors
11 Sydenham Street
P.O. Box 8180
DUNDAS, Ontario
L9H 5G1

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Fees and Tax	
Registration Fee	22-
Total	